REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Patentability seen in, although not limited to independent claim 6: the combination of elements specifically claimed including the features of the storage section for recording RGB values of original hair colors; multiple displaying sections for displaying the various hair color images with predetermined transparencies; and multiple layering technique to simulate the resultant hair color by superimposing different image layers.

The closest reference that teaches hair color simulation is Saita (US 6,719,565). However, this reference does not teach recording the RGB values of the original hair colors. The reference also does not teach the implementation of multiple displaying sections to display the RGB values of the hair colors to be prepared. Rather, this system has an array of simulated hair images representing the user's hair color when dyed with different hair colors (col.4, lines 54-60). Thus, the prior art system does not have any means to blend color selections; and therefore, it does not have any feature to determine mixing ratios of the colors to be blended. In addition, this reference does not teach any image layering techniques to superimpose one image over another to determine the effect of mixing selected hair colors, as required in the current claims.

Another reference in the field of hair coloring that teaches hair color simulation is Fertig (US 2004/ 0239689). This reference teaches a color palette to help the user select a desired hair color (e.g. see Para.0017). However, this reference also does not teach recording the RGB values of the original hair colors. The reference also does not teach for example blending two hair colors to reach a desired hair color. Rather, the

system continuously changes the hair color on the user's captured image until the user

stops the changing process when a desired color is reached (Para.0019, lines 1-10).

Therefore, this system also does not have any feature to determine mixing ratios of the

colors to be blended and, any image layering techniques to superimpose one image

over another to determine the effect of mixing selected hair colors, as required in the

current claims.

A reference that teaches multiple layering techniques for image manipulation is

Hamburg (US 6,028,583). This reference teaches the implementations of multiple layers

to determine the effect of blending colors (col.4, lines 60-67 and col.5, lines 1-24).

However, this reference does not teach recording the RGB values of the original hair

colors, and additional storage sections for storing for example the RGB values of the

hair colors to be prepared. Furthermore, the reference does not teach multiple

displaying sections to display the RGB values of the hair colors to be selected for the

hair color preparation, as required in the current claims.

A reference that teaches input features for selecting colors to be blended is

Alpher (US 5,552,805). This reference teaches plurality of displaying sections to display

colors to be blended (e.g. FIG 3A, labels 3 and 5). However, similar to the references

discussed above, this reference also does not teach recording the RGB values of the

original hair colors. Even if this reference teaches adjusting the mixing ratios of the

colors to be blended (e.g. col.4. lines 18-33), it does not teach the various displaying

sections for displaying the different hair lines (e.g. the first hair line and the second hair

line) with predetermined transparencies, as required in the current claims.

In addition, Applicant has presented a persuasive argument in the remarks filed on 02/22/2010 that the combination of the above cited references would not result the current invention since the combined teaching of the references does not teach or suggest all recited features of claim 6 (e.g. the features with respect to recording RGB values of original hair colors, storing RGB values of hair color preparations (see pages 3-10 of Applicant's remark fro detail).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruk A. Gebremichael whose telephone number is (571) 270-3079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday (7:30AM-5:00PM) ALT. Friday OFF.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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